




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

MARINE FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 22, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR: John Bryson
Secretary of Commerce

FROM: 
Keith Rizzardi
Chair, Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: Comments on National Ocean Policy Draft Implementation Plan

As requested, the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) prepared the attached comments on the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. The comments represent the consensus advice of a diverse group of experts and stakeholders who serve on this Federal Advisory Committee. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our perspective on living marine resource stewardship issues.

MAFAC has received multiple briefings from senior Executive Branch leaders on the National Ocean Policy (NOP), and agreed at its October 2011 meeting to comment on the Policy's draft Implementation Plan when it became available. MAFAC met in public session on February 7, 2012, and adopted the attached consensus findings and recommendation on the Implementation Plan.

Last summer, the Committee submitted detailed suggestions for each of the nine priority objectives in the NOP. Through those comments, we sought to rectify the lack of priority and focus given to living marine resources and their habitats. Our review of the draft Implementation Plan suggests that most of our recommendations went unheeded.

While we recognize the hard work and effort that has gone into the development of the NOP, we feel that the draft Implementation Plan is incomplete. The draft document does not, but should, emphasize the direct and unique link between fisheries, aquaculture, and the long-term sustainability of all our living marine resources and their habitats. Therefore, we now recommend the creation of a separate chapter that elevates the priority given to living marine resources.

Our reasoning is explained in more detail in the attached comments. We appreciate the opportunity to comment and look forward to seeing the revisions to the Implementation Plan.

If there are any follow up questions, my contact information is esablawg@gmail.com, or (561) 376-3117.

Attachment



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